AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide up to 20 amino acids in length, which comprises a subsequence: SRFEVW (SEQ ID NO: 22), wherein said peptide causes 50% bundled actin and inhibits actin depolymerization when polymerized in vitro with actin.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide in accordance with claim 1, comprising the formula: X_4-X_3-X_2-X_1-X_5-X_6, where

X_1 is SRFEVW,

X_2 is WI,

X_3 is GIVRK,

X_4 is EN,

X_5 is PYL, and

X_6 is KK,

wherein the polypeptide comprises X_1 and at least one of X_2 or X_5, and optionally at least one of X_3, X_4, and X_6, wherein when X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5 and X_6 are present, the amino acids are identical in their respective positions to those in ENGIVRKWISRFEVWPYLKK (SEQ ID NO: 24) .

Claim 3 (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 which is 20 amino acids in length.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide is at least 80% homologous with SEQ ID NOS: ~~1,~~ 2, 3 or 4, and said homology is over the entire length of the peptide; and

wherein said peptide causes 50% bundled actin and inhibits actin depolymerization when polymerized in vitro with actin at a molar ratio of 100 to 1.

Claims 5-7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide in accordance with claim 3, wherein the peptide is polymerized with actin at a molar ratio of peptide to actin of at least 100:1.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the sequence is SEQ ID NO: 12.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method for causing actin bundling and inhibition of actin depolymerization in a cell comprising the step of delivering to said cell an effective amount of an isolated peptide which comprises a subsequence: SRFEVW (SEQ ID NO: 22).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the isolated peptide comprises at least 16 contiguous amino acids in accordance with the formula:

X_4-X_3-X_2-X_1-X_5-X_6, where

X_1 is SRFEVW,

X_2 is WI,

X_3 is GIVRK,

X_4 is EN,

X_5 is PYL, and

X_6 is KK,

wherein the isolated peptide comprises X_1 and optionally at least one of X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5 and X_6, and if any of X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5 and X_6 are present, the amino acids are identical in their respective positions to those in ENGIVRKWISRFEVWPYLKK (SEQ ID NO: 24) and said peptide inhibits actin depolymerization when polymerized in vitro with actin.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method of inhibiting growth of cells, where the method comprises administering to the cells an amount of the isolated peptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:26, wherein said peptide causes actin bundling and inhibits actin depolymerization.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein said isolated peptide comprises a sequence:

EH*GIV*R*-W----- V* W (SEQ ID NO:27), where H* means H or a conservative substitution therefore, V* means V or a conservative substitution therefore, and R* means R or a conservative substitution therefore, and - means any amino acid, wherein said peptide causes actin bundling and inhibits actin depolymerization.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein said isolated peptide is SEQ ID NO: 10 or SEQ ID NO: 12.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the administration of said isolated peptide results in about 50% of bundled actin in a molar fraction of peptide to actin of at least 100 to 1.

Claim 17 -19 (cancelled).